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09/08/2000

Glenn C. Waehner

Pelco-7/APP

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07/08/2004

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EXAMINER

HANNETT, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

3

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/658,177

Applicant(s)

WAEHNER, GLENN C.

Examiner

James M Hannett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-30, 32-39 and 42-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11, 16, 18, 20, 31, 40 and 41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 1: Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21-25 and 51-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-130668 Hoshi.
- 2: As for Claim 1, Hoshi teaches in the abstract circuitry to provide remote slow shutter processing of a video signal from a video source, comprising: Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0007] A memory (18), remote from the video source, to store a digital representation of a selected video signal; and Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] signaling means to provide a write control signal that controls whether a portion of the selected video signal is stored in the memory.
- 3: As for Claim 3, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0032] wherein the write control signal is a don't-write signal.
- 4: In regards to Claim 4, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0043] wherein the signaling means synchronizes the capture and refresh display of images from the selected video source when operating in a slow shutter mode.
- 5: As for Claim 5, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0024-0025] the signaling means provides bi-directional control signals, including the write control signal, between the selected video source and the memory.

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6: In regards to Claim 6, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0022 and 0024] the bi-directional control signals further include an enable-slow-shutter signal to enable operation of a slow-shutter mode of the image sensor of the video source, and the write control signal is a don't-write signal when slow-shutter mode is enabled in the video source and the image sensor has not accumulated an image for a predefined slow-shutter speed.

7: In regards to Claim 12, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0020] the signaling means includes: an enable-detector circuit to detect the enable-slow-shutter signal; and a generate-don't-write-signal circuit to generate the don't-write signal; Paragraph [0032].

8: As for Claim 13, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0024] the signaling means includes: A generate-enable signal circuit (G) to generate the enable-slow-shutter signal; This is viewed by the examiner as the mode of operation circuit that can place the camera in slow shutter mode. Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] a detect-don't-write-signal circuit to detect the don't-write signal, wherein the memory maintains the stored signal in the memory when the detect-don't-write-signal circuit detects the don't-write signal.

9: As for Claim 17, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0030] the memory (D) stores a predetermined number of fields to provide an image history track. Hoshi teaches that the memory (D) can store one field period. Therefore, this provides an image history track of one field.

10: As for Claim 19, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] a switch (G) to provide an enable slow shutter signal to enable remote digital slow speed shutter video processing in the video source.

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11: As for Claim 21, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0009 and 0012] an image sensor (10) to sense image information; and a generate-write-control-signal circuit to provide a write control signal when digital slow speed shutter is enabled in the camera.

12: In regards to Claim 22, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] wherein write control signal is a don't-write signal.

13: As for Claim 23, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028 and 0009-0012] A detect-enable signal circuit to detect an enable-slow-shutter signal to operate the image sensor in a slow shutter mode.

14: In regards to Claim 24, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] a switch (G) to provide an enable-slow-shutter signal to operate the image sensor (A) in a slow shutter mode.

15: As for Claim 25, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028 and 0029] video circuitry to generate a video signal (S1 and S2) from the image information, wherein the detect enable circuit detects the enable slow shutter signal. Hoshi teaches that the video signal will be generated based on the mode of operation that is designated by the mode-of-operation setting means.

16: As for Claim 51, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0030-0032] a method of operating a video system including at least one video source (A), the method comprising: providing a write control signal in response to the enable slow shutter signal (G); and updating a state of a digital image from the at least one video source in a remote memory (D) in response to the write control signal.

17: In regards to Claim 52, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0028] further comprising: generating an enable slow shutter signal remote from the at least one video source, wherein the write control signal is provided in response to the enable slow shutter signal.

18: As for Claim 53, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0032] wherein the write control signal is a don't write signal (SC).

19: In regards to Claim 54, Hoshi teaches the remote memory (D) is located at a different location from the at least one video source (A). The memory and the image sensor are viewed by the examiner as being at different locations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20: Claims 2, 14, 15, 32-34, 39, 42-44 and 48- 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-130668 Hoshi in view of USPN 5,821,995 Nisikawa.

21: In regards to Claim 2, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 1. However, Hoshi only teaches that one image sensor is connected to the image processing system and does not teach the use of a selector to select one of a plurality of video sources as the selected video source.

Nisikawa teaches on Column 6, Lines 19-25 and Column 7, Lines 52-55 and depicts in Figure 4 that it is advantageous to design an imaging system to be able to transmit multiplexed video signals so that a remote user can view a plurality of video signals.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the camera system of Hoshi to receive a multiplexed video signal having a plurality of video signals from a plurality of cameras as taught by Nisikawa in order to

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enable a user to view a plurality of video signals from several cameras over a single transmission path.

22: In regards to Claim 14, Nisikawa further teaches the selector includes a switch (31) it is inherent that the switch be an NxM switch.

23: As for Claim 15, Nisikawa further teaches on Column 6, Lines 20-25 that the signals are multiplexed. Therefore, it is inherent that the selector includes a multiplexer.

24: In regards to Claim 32, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0007] a memory (D) to store digital image data representing a video signal from an image sensor (A); Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0009 and 0012] write control circuitry to detect a write control signal when digital slow speed shutter operation is enabled, wherein the memory (D) is updated based on the write control signal. However, Hoshi only teaches that one image sensor is connected to the image processing system and does not teach the use of a selector to select one of a plurality of video sources as the selected video source.

Nisikawa teaches on Column 6, Lines 19-25 and Column 7, Lines 52-55 and depicts in Figure 4 that it is advantageous to design an imaging system to be able to transmit multiplexed video signals so that a remote user can view a plurality of video signals.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the camera system of Hoshi to receive a multiplexed video signal having a plurality of video signals from a plurality of cameras as taught by Nisikawa in order to enable a user to view a plurality of video signals from several cameras over a single transmission path.

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25: As for Claim 33, Hoshi further teaches on Paragraph [0032] wherein the write control signal is a don't write signal (SC) and the digital image data stored in the memory (D) is maintained when the write control signal is detected.

26: In regards to Claim 34, Hoshi further teaches on Paragraph [0028] enable circuitry to provide an enable slow shutter signal to enable digital slow speed shutter operation. This is viewed by the examiner as the mode of operation setting means (G) that sets the camera into a slow shutter mode.

27: As for Claim 39, Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide camera control signals on separate control lines than the video signal to simplify the design. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the write control signal separate from the video signal to simplify the design of the camera system.

28: In regards to Claim 42, Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0007] a memory (D) to store digital image data representing a video signal from an image sensor (A); Hoshi teaches on Paragraph [0009 and 0012] write control circuitry to detect a write control signal when digital slow speed shutter operation is enabled, wherein the memory (D) is updated based on the write control signal. However, Hoshi only teaches that one image sensor is connected to the image processing system and does not teach the use of a selector to select one of a plurality of video sources as the selected video source.

Nisikawa teaches on Column 6, Lines 19-25 and Column 7, Lines 52-55 and depicts in Figure 4 that it is advantageous to design an imaging system to be able to transmit multiplexed video signals so that a remote user can view a plurality of video signals.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the camera system of Hoshi to receive a multiplexed video signal having a plurality of video signals from a plurality of cameras as taught by Nisikawa in order to enable a user to view a plurality of video signals from several cameras over a single transmission path.

29: As for Claim 43, Hoshi further teaches on Paragraph [0028] enable circuitry to provide an enable slow shutter signal to enable digital slow speed shutter operation. This is viewed by the examiner as the mode of operation setting means (G) that sets the camera into a slow shutter mode.

30: In regards to Claim 44, Hoshi further teaches on Paragraph [0032] wherein the write control signal is a don't write signal (SC) and the digital image data stored in the memory (D) is maintained when the write control signal is detected.

31: In regards to Claim 48, Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide camera control signals on separate control lines than the video signal to simplify the design. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the write control signal separate from the video signal to simplify the design of the camera system.

32: As for Claim 49, Nisikawa further teaches the selector includes a switch (31) it is inherent that the switch be an NxM switch.

33: In regards to Claim 50, Nisikawa further teaches on Column 6, Lines 20-25 that the signals are multiplexed. Therefore, it is inherent that the selector includes a multiplexer.

34: Claims 35-38, 45-47 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-130668 Hoshi in view of USPN 5,821,995 Nisikawa in further view of USPN 4,191,969 Briand et al.

35: As for Claim 35, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 34. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

36: In regards to Claim 36, Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within

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the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel. Since the control signals are superimposed in the vertical blanking interval, it is inherent that the control signal is a pulse of at least a predetermined duration. The examiner notes that this limitation is broad and is viewed by the examiner as any electrical signal that exists in the banking interval.

37: As for Claim 37, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 32. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

38: In regards to Claim 38, It is inherent that the write control signal in the vertical blanking interval of the video signal be a pulse having at least a predetermined threshold voltage. It should

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be noted that the claim is written very broadly and the limitation a predetermined threshold voltage is viewed as being any voltage.

39: As for Claim 45, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 42. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

40: In regards to Claim 46, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 43. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

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Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel. Since the control signals are superimposed in the vertical blanking interval, it is inherent that the control signal is a pulse of at least a predetermined duration. The examiner notes that this limitation is broad and is viewed by the examiner as any electrical signal that exists in the banking interval.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

41: As for Claim 47, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 42. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi in view of Nisikawa does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and

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synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel. It is inherent that the write control signal in the vertical blanking interval of the video signal be a pulse having at least a predetermined threshold voltage. It should be noted that the claim is written very broadly and the limitation a predetermined threshold voltage is viewed as being any voltage.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

42: In regards to Claim 56, Official notice is taken that is was well know in the art at the time the invention was made to provide camera control signals on separate control lines than the video signal to simplify the design. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the write control signal separate from the video signal to simplify the design of the camera system.

43: Claims 8, 26-29 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-130668 Hoshi in view of USPN 4,191,969 Briand et al.

44: In regards to Claim 8, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 1. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels

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into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the control signals of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

45: In regards to Claim 26, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 21. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the don't write signal control signal of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single

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communications channel.

46: As for Claim 27, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 21. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the don't write signal control signal of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

47: In regards to Claim 28, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 21. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and

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synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the don't write signal control signal of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allow for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

48: As for Claim 29, wherein the generate write control signal circuit superimposes the don't write signal as a pulse in a vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 21. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel. Since the control signals are superimposed in the vertical blanking interval, it is inherent that the control signal is a pulse of at least a predetermined duration. The examiner notes that this limitation is broad and is viewed by the examiner as any electrical signal that exists in the blanking interval.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the don't write signal control signal of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allow for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

49: As for Claim 55, Hoshi teaches the claimed invention as discussed in Claim 21. Hoshi teaches the use of an enable slow shutter signal and a video signal. However, Hoshi does not teach that the control signal can be superimposed on the selected video signal.

Briand et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 19-26, Column 2, Lines 65-68 and Column 5, Lines 23-25 and Column 4, lines 46-51 a method for encoding data such as signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of a video signal. Briand et al teaches that this method of transmitting data channels superimposed on the video signal within the blanking and synchronization signals is advantageous because it allows for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to superimpose the write control signal of Hoshi into the video signal by encoding the signaling channels into the blanking and synchronization signals of the video signal as taught by Briand et al in order to allow for faster transmission over a single communications channel.

50: Claims 7 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-130668 Hoshi.

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51: As for Claim 7, Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide camera control signals on separate control lines than the video signal to simplify the design. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the write control signal separate from the video signal to simplify the design of the camera system.

52: In regards to Claim 30, Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to provide camera control signals on separate control lines than the video signal to simplify the design. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the enable slow shutter signal separate from the video signal to simplify the design of the camera system.

Allowable Subject Matter

53: Claims 9-11, 16, 18, 20, 31, 40 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPN 4,584,613 Amari et al teaches the use of an apparatus for recording video signals at a plurality of different recording speeds; USPN 6,573,931 Horii et al teaches the use of an information transmission method; USPN 5,526,050 King et al teaches the use of an apparatus for concurrently acquiring video data from multiple video data sources.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hannett whose telephone number is 703-305-7880. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 703-305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James M. Hannett
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

JMH
March 11, 2004


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600